WHOLE NO. 1914 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1947 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 37, NO. 50

Entered as second-class matter September 25, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918

TAFT-HARTLEY LAW EXPOSED!

By J. ALBERT WOLL and HERBERT S. THATCHER

(Members of the law firm of Padway, Woll, Thatcher, Glenn and Wilson, serving as general counsel for the American Federation of Labor)

This is the fourth of a series of articles to be published by the AFL Weekly News Service in refutation of an article appearing in the Saturday Evening Post which praised the Taft-Hartley law to the skies. Author of the Post article was J. Mark Swigert, law partner of Senator Robert A. Taft—enough said.

NO. 4—THE "SO-CALLED 14 PRIVILEGES" OF THE TAFT-HARTLEY LAW—(Continued)

2. "Protection from Union Threats and Violence"

This section of the Post article discusses the new "rights" set forth in the law, namely, the right of employees to refrain from any and all union activities and from joining a union. The author states that this gives individual employes full freedom of choice and prevents "roughneck" intimidatory practices by union representatives forcing employes to join unions against their will. This is said to equalize the protections against interference with freedom of choice by either the employer or the union.

The fact is that for every instance of any intimidatory tactic by a union representative there were a thousand instances of intimidatory or coercive practices by employers who, as shown by the LaFollette Committee reports, in addition to wholesale use of their weapon of discharge, in many instances expended thousands of dollars to fight unionization, maintained arsenals, and carried on their payroll armies of vigilantes and labor spies. To speak of equalizing protections against interference with choice is preposterous.

Further, the record does not show that local police officers or local peace laws are inadequate to cope with the isolated instances of physical intimidation cited by the article as justification for the newly granted "right."

For these reasons it can only be concluded that the real purpose behind the so-called protection against union interference with the right not to join a union is designed primarily to drive a moral and psychological wedge between the worker and the organization established for the mutual aid and protection of workers. Further, the broad language of the restriction which prohibits unions from "restraining" or "coercing" employes in the exercise of the right not to join a union may well lead to board or court determinations that customary and peaceful organizing practices of unions are forbidden.

3. "Duster of Unsatisfactory Union"

The third "privilege" bestowed upon workers is asserted to be the privilege of employees to get rid of any union which they do not like by the filing of decertification petitions. The fact is that this privilege existed under the old Wagner Act. Employes dissatisfied with one organization could, and in thousands of instances did, select another organization, independent or nationally affiliated, and at the end of the contract period obtained an election and made the change. To charge, as does the Post article, that this was impossible in closed-shop situations ignores the doctrine of the Railroad Court case previously mentioned under which the old board had ruled that no employe could be discharged under a closed shop simply because of his desire to change his union affiliation.

It is greatly significant that the new law seeks as an end result the ousting of unions and the discontinuance of existing collective bargaining relationships. This purpose, directly opposite to the purpose of the original Wagner Act which encouraged such relationships as a means of achieving industrial protection and industrial peace, is evidenced not only by the decertification provision but also in other sections of the act.

For instance, under the new law an employer can now petition and obtain an election whenever any individual claiming to represent 30 percent or more of the employes asks for bargaining rights. Thus, the timing of elections can very easily be determined by the employer and not by the petitioning union through the simple expedient of having some individual, acting as an employer stooge, claim bargaining rights on behalf of some group of the employes, whereupon the employer files the petition even though the bona fide union attempting to organize the plant is not ready for an election. If a "no-union"vote results, another election cannot be held for 12 months, and this organization can be forestalled for indefinite periods.

Another very outrageous example of how existing bargaining relationships can be disinterested is seen in the section which prohibits striking employes from participating in elections. Suppose a union which has been duly certified as exclusive representative for employes calls a perfectly valid strike, as, for instance, in protest against employer breach of an existing contract or in protest over a wage cut, and the employes unanimously respond to the strike call. Under the act the employer is free to hire some to replace the striking employes. These scabs can then claim bargaining rights and the employer can demand an election. In any such election the employes out on a legitimate strike are forbidden to vote, and thus at any time that a strike is called the employer can use the strike for the purpose of terminating a previously existing bargaining relationship. Again it is clear that any Congress which had in mind the encouragement of the collective bargaining relationship and the protection of employes in their economic struggle for better wages and hours could not have inserted in the law the various methods to forestall or extinguish bargaining relationships.

If it is a privilege to return to the era when workers tried to bargain on an individual basis, in majestic, if poverty-stricken, aloofness from fellow employes, then the Taft-Hartley law does confer privileges, and the workers of this country, "as unknowing heirs," have received their "legacy."

Federation of Government Employes Sets Observance of Civil Service Week

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Government Employes announced that its observance of Civil Service Week commemorating the 64th anniversary of the signing of the National Civil Service Act will stress the theme that only unionism can make he merit system effective.

The National Civil Service Act became law on January 16, 1883, when President Chester A. Arthur signed the measure establishing the merit system in the government service.

Citing the fact that the merit system alone could not attract competent employes to enter federal service, the AFGE emphasized the need for organization among government workers to bring about improvements in pay and working conditions.

The AFL union declared that now is the urgent need for salary increases and said it is working for an all government employes.

James B. Burns, president of the AFGE, asserted that the good work unions have done in building up the character of the service is being sabotaged by the constant stream of vilification directed at government employes. He said that organizations of the private powerful interests, anxious to save tax money and to attack labor standards generally, spur this campaign of abuse every time it may cripple the federal service.

Mr. Burns said the AFGE holds to the belief that government employes are conscientious and efficient to an exceptional degree, and that efforts, including them as loafers, time-wasters, and tax-eaters is wholly unjustified.

He declared that the American Federation of Labor endorsed this stand at its recent convention when it passed a resolution declaring that "any attempt to cut the unwarranted attacks upon terms and conditions of employment of government employes."

Inflation Causing Drain on Savings; People Cashing Bonds at High Rate

Washington, D. C.—American wage earners, fighting a losing battle against inflation, cashed more than $800 million dollars worth of war bonds past were able to purchase $200, $500 and $1,000 bonds—and farmers. in October, the Treasury Department announced.

Redemptions of the $25, $50, $100 and $500 denominations totaled $1,000,000,000 during the first 10 months of this year, the department said.

ILGWU 'Adopts' 62 War Orphans

New York City.—The AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union, Local 62, voted to "adopt" 62 war orphans in European countries.

Louis Stulberg, manager of Local 62 and a vice-president of the ILGWU, announced that the union decided to give $18,600 to provide for the care and feeding of the group of children for a year.

More tha~ 800 members of Local 62 endorsed the program when it was recommended by the union's executive board at a meeting here. Local 62 is the ILGWU's undergarment and negligee workers' unit, whose membership includes 17,000 members virtually all women.

The money, according to the current plans, will be raised through voluntary contributions by Local 62 members, with the union guaranteeing that the full sum will be forthcoming. The orphanage will be distributed in Italy, France and other countries through relief agencies, the union said, adding that it will go to many of the children's homes already set up to care for orphans.

Local 62 pointed out that its members will keep in personal touch with the children benefitting by their efforts. The plan, described as the first mass program of its kind, requires $500 a year to provide for each child.

Tracy Urges Action To Get Votes In '48

Chicago.—Dan W. Tracy, president of the AFL's Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, urged political action and an intensified drive for new members as the means of avoiding defeat of labor's foes.

Speaking before a regional meeting attended by over 200 representatives of the union, Mr. Tracy concentrated on three two major appeals for future action:

1. The best way to fight the Taft-Hartley Act is to organize more vigorously than ever before. "Let's push drive for political action. Every member of our organization should register and be prepared to vote in the 1948 election," the IBEW chief declared. "Get your families and members of your families to register, too.

"If we keep building our organization and if we turn out solidly at the polls in 1948, we will give the enemies of labor an answer they will never forget," Tracy said.

Delegates vociferously cheered Tracy and laid plans to achieve these goals in their home communities.

Industry Is Warned On Anti-Labor Law

New York City.—Dr. George W. Taylor, professor of industry at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a former member of the War Labor Board, warned that industry as well as labor may be harmed by the Taft-Hartley law.

Dr. Taylor's warning came in an address to the recent convention of the National Association of Manufacturers before which many speakers rose to praise the law and the unanimous full efforts of the NAM in assuring its passage.

Taking a slightly different approach to an analysis of the law, Taylor declared that it may turn out to be "a restriction of the collective bargaining rights of both employes and employers."

Under the law, he said, the government "assumes a greater responsibility for controlling industrial relations than ever before seemed necessary."

"Since political power rather than economic power now becomes the final instrument, the new labor policy as it evolves may prove to be more detrimental to the interests of organized labor," Taylor asserted.

NLRB DECISION FAVORS FEDERAL LABOR UNION

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board has issued its first decision affecting a Federal Labor Union, chartered directly by the American Federation of Labor, in the AFL's favor.

The board ordered 2 challenged ballots to be counted to determine the results of a collective bargaining election among employes of the Blue Star Airlines, Inc., Rio Grande, N. J.

AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany paved the way for board action in the matter when they signed the non-Communist affidavits required by the Taft-Hartley law. They acted following the decision of the AFL convention to disregard the order of the officers of the AFL and to strip the Federal Labor Union of its charter.

AFL Upholsterers' Union Will Enter Housing Field

Philadelphia.—A $500,000 housing project to provide rental apartments badly needed in Philadelphia and as "an investment in public good will" was authorized by the 11 top leaders of the Upholsterers' International Union, AFL, meeting at headquarters here.

President Sal B. Hoffman was instructed to acquire a site and obtain drawings and estimates from architects.

Full cooperation of building trades unions was pledged, with an advisory committee of such unions to be set up under the chairmanship of James L. Lough'in, Business Representative of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Philadelphia.

Attending the U.I.U. session initiating the project was James L. McDevitt, President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor and Business Manager of the Council.

He advised the U.I.U. leaders from all parts of the country and Canada that 1,000,000 veterans face serious housing shortages, but that construction costs are likely to rise rather than drop.

"There is a great need in this city and throughout the nation for adequate housing," he declared. "The apartments will be available to GIs and for families with children as well as couples without them. We feel that our efforts in housing are a small part of that need is a step forward.

"Not only do we recognize that construction of such apartments is a good investment for future income, but we believe it will be a very good will between the general public and trade unions.

"In these days of dire prophecies of the failure of democracy, the American people should know that organized labor American workers of the American Federation of Labor generally, and members of the Upholsterers' International Union specifically, have full and complete faith in the future of our country. We believe in America."

Court Orders AFL Distillery Workers To Cease Alleged Secondary Boycott

New York City.—Federal Judge Sylvester J. Ryan issued a temporary injunction restraining Local 1 of the AFL's Distillery Workers Union from advancing an alleged secondary boycott against the Schenley Distillers Corporation.

The action was the first brought here under the Taft-Hartley law which prohibits secondary boycotts. The injunction was requested by the regional director of the National Labor Relations Board upon complaint of the Schenley corporation.

Union officials said the court order which is effective for a 5-day period, was designed specifically to bar expiration of the stated period, the Federal government will argue its case and members of your families to register, too.

"If we keep building our organization and if we turn out solidly at the polls in 1948, we will give the enemies of labor an answer they will never forget," Tracy said.

Delegates vociferously cheered Tracy and laid plans to achieve these goals in their home communities.

Friday to handle Schenley products, cutting off the flow of liquor for the holidays in many bars and package stores. The warehousemen, it was charged, are acting in sympathy with members of Local 38, of the same international union, who have been on strike since Nov. 13 against the Joseph T. Stagg Company, a Schenley distillery at Frankfort, Ky.

When counsel for the union moved for an immediate hearing on the issues involved, the judge denied the motion, holding that "the facts presented warrant fully the issuance of the relief now sought. It is well established that where the court has jurisdiction to grant an injunction to prevent an act, it is discretionary to grant a preliminary or temporary injunction."

An attorney for the NLRB, and counsel for the regional office argued that "substantial and irreparable damage to the complainant would be unavoidable" unless the restraining order was issued at once pending final decision on the merits of the case.

USES Reports 528,000 Job Placements; October Was Peak Month for Veterans

Washington, D. C.—Job placements in nonagricultural occupations made by public employment agencies totaled 528,000 during October, the United States Employment Service has announced.

This total, veterans were placed in 179,500 jobs, a new peak for the year. Handicapped persons numbering 30,600 were placed in jobs during the month, the USES report said.

The report issued by Robert C. Goodwin, USES director, declared:

"The favorable labor market conditions which prevailed in October were reflected in employment service activities. The reports received from 1,800 local offices of the State Employment Services showed significant gains in counseling interviews and employer visits.

"Counseling interviews rose 13 percent over September to 113,600. Counseling interviews with veterans rose 9 percent amounting to 60,200. The volume of employer visits increased sharply in October, rising 20 percent over September. Employer visits in October totaled 209,000, the highest postwar level.

"Nonagricultural placements showed a slight decline following September's unusually large increase, but continued at higher levels than at any other time during the year.

"Placements in construction continued upward to 73,400, a new postwar high. All occupational categories of workers, except the unskilled, registered placement gains, with professional and managerial showing the largest relative increase. Placements of service workers (111,000) topped all previous levels in the postwar period. Placements of clerical and sales workers (56,200) and skilled workers (36,000) were the highest of the year."

Number of Employed Workers In N. Y. Surpasses Employment Level of V-J Day

New York City.—Employment in New York City is currently much higher than that prevailing on V-J Day, the State Labor Department reported.

The department's division of placement and unemployment insurance said that 5,400,000 persons had jobs in New York in September, as against 5,089,000 in August 1945, the last month of hostilities. The totals did not include members of the armed forces, self-employment or service in the armed forces.

The September figure, the latest officially available, was the highest this year. The division predicted that it would be exceeded in reports for October, November and December. As evidence of the upward trend, the division noted that manufacturing employment rose to 1,922,000 in October, a gain of 23,000 over September, according to preliminary estimates. Increased activity in trade and postal employment during the holiday season was expected to contribute further to the increase in jobs during the final quarter of the year.

The number of persons claiming unemployment insurance benefits in the state dropped to 290,000 in October, 17 percent below September. It was the first time the figure had dipped below 300,000 since November 1945. Nearly 44,000 veterans went off the unemployment insurance rolls in October because they found jobs or entered school.

The comparison between employment at the end of the war and September of this year showed that Government service and the manufacture of durable goods were the only major categories showing declines. Industrial employment showed a gain of 62 percent over V-J Day. This was slightly less, the division acknowledged, than the gain for the country as a whole, which was 7.5 percent.

United Mine Workers Pull Out of AFL; Green Says Action Will Aid Labor's Foes

Washington, D. C.—President John L. Lewis announced his United Mine Workers of America have withdrawn from the American Federation of Labor.

He made public a curt 2-word message addressed by AFL President William Green reading: "We disaffiliate."

No official explanation was given by the UMW chief for the action which has been issued by the union's executive board at a meeting in Washington.

Mr. Green issued the following comment on Mr. Lewis's withdrawal from the AFL:

"The membership of the American Federation of Labor sincerely regrets the withdrawal of affiliation on the part of the United Mine Workers of America. The friends of organized labor will be disappointed but the enemies of both the United Mine Workers of America and the American Federation of Labor have been made happy.

"We are passing through a historic period when the need for unity within the ranks of labor is paramount to any. Our enemies are united against us. We are succeeding to cope with our united enemies by creating divisions within our own ranks."

The record shows that the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor are united in their opposition to the Taft-Hartley law. Differences as to the methods which should be employed in fighting the act were developed at the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor which was held in San Francisco. These differences were settled through the utilization of the democratic process. The delegates in attendance at the convention decided the question at issue by more than a two-thirds vote. It was assumed that all who participated in the discussions and deliberations of the convention would abide by the decision rendered by the delegates in attendance at the convention. That is the democratic way. Congress, state legislatures, city councils and even the Supreme Court of the United States settle differences in that way. There is no better way which can be utilized or followed. It is unthinkable that any part of a minority should withdraw from affiliation with a deliberative body because it declares against them, if we are to preserve the principle of democracy and be governed in formation of policies by the democratic process.

"We hope that after calm deliberation and a consideration of all the facts that the United Mine Workers of America will reconsider their action and return to the American Federation of Labor. We shall do all within our power to bring about this result."

Green Endorses March of Dimes Drive; Urges AFL Support of Appeal for Funds

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green endorsed the annual drive for funds to be launched by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Commenting upon the well known March of Dimes campaign, Mr. Green, in a letter to all unions and state federations of labor affiliated with the AFL, said the "working men and women of the nation are conscious of the fact that this is a most worthy cause and is deserving of the support of all classes of people."

The March of Dimes drive for 1948 will get under way on January 15 and end on January 30, the birthday of the founder of the Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The campaign is under the direction of the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt Birthday Memorial Committee.

In his letter urging support for the fund's appeal, Mr. Green emphasized the contributions made by working men and women will help care for the victims of infantile paralysis in hundreds of other members of the trade union movement. He added:

"I commend this worthy cause to your favorable consideration and urge that all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, as well as the individual members of the American Federation of Labor, contribute in as large a way as possible to the appeal for funds for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., which is sponsored by the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Birthday Memorial Committee."

Sweden's Economy Offers Maximum of Material Things, Equality for People

New York City.—The Swedish economy is afforded good health, good recreation, good housing, good education, security, and equality of opportunity, not for the few but for the many.

This is the main theme expressed by Arnold S. Zander, president of the AFL's State, County, and Municipal Employees Union, in the sixth industrial article in a series prepared for the Workers Education Bureau of America on the general topic, "Swedish Laboratory in Economic Democracy."

Portions of Mr. Zander's article follow:

"The Swedes have a most advanced social and economic order because they have few rich people and no poor. They have achieved an amazing measure of equality.

"They do not have the sumptuous dwellings of our well-to-do, but neither do they have one flat slums. They have both less splendor and less misery. It must be said that enjoyment is less excessive but it must be added that comfort is more general. He who would defend full freedom for the mountain lion and the wolf would be uncomfortable for a time in Sweden, where the order of things is such that domestic animals can make a contribution without being constantly in danger of attack. Monopolies do not exist in Sweden except as public enterprises. Other competitive enterprises are freer there.

"Sweden is not a land of slogans and catch phrases. The 'private enterprise system' needs to be defined and must be made to contribute to economic stability or it has no charm for them. They size it where it works to advantage, in the areas where free competition actually obtains. To them, communism is not 'Red Fascism,' another catch phrase, but a system which destroys personal liberty and freedom. The Swedes have a way of judging communism by its destruction of freedom and not by the roll of the words.

"To them the 'American enterprise system,' as ordinarily described by billions leaders, means the smooth, controlled by consumer cooperative competition and public parasitic operations, would mean booms and busts and finally a depression as a result that there would be no recovery, but only mass unemployment, disillusionment, chaos, and dictatorship.

"Sweden points the way in tempering capitalism, in building automatic controls in the competitive system, in equalizing opportunities, and in advancing the historic trend toward equality.

"When I asked why they had done some of the things they have I was told that they are a poor people and could not afford another depression. They said, 'If were to have the kind of depression you are going to have in your country it would mean ruination and the loss of our rights and privileges. We hope your great wealth will carry you through. We don't have such wealth.' They were forced by their poverty, they said, to defend themselves against chaos by planning and by organizing themselves opposed to progress.

"I asked them how it was that they were able to take such forward steps. They pointed out that they had not left on private hands the power to stand against advances which goes with the enormous wealth and monopoly industries. They have been able to do so in a sense of assurance about the future by removing forces opposed to progress."

WESTERN UNION WORKERS CALL STRIKE FOR DEC. 23

Washington, D. C.—The Western Union Division of the AFL's Commercial Telegraphers Union announced that a strike of its members would be called for December 23 unless the company agrees to a wage increase.

McNAMARA RE-ELECTED BY TEAMSTERS' LOCAL

New York City.—Members of Local 808 of the AFL's Teamsters Union elected Thomas McNamara as their

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news summaries and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

GIVE NOW
To Your
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This is the fifth of a series of articles to be published by the AFL Weekly News Service in refutation of an article appearing in the Saturday Evening Post which praised the Taft-Hartley law to the skies. Author of the Post article was J. Mack Swigert, law partner of Senator Robert A. Taft—enough said.

NO. 5—THE "SO-CALLED 14 PRIVILEGES" OF THE TAFT-HARTLEY LAW—(Continued)

4. "Relief from High Initiation Fees"

The next alleged benefit is relief from excessive initiation fees, which it is claimed run into hundreds of dollars. Were there evidence of any widespread abuse in this respect, the power given the board to control and determine initiation fees in union-shop situations might have some excuse. However, the fact is that the average initiation fee of the vast majority of labor organizations ranges from $2.00 to $5.00, and those few organizations which charge higher initiation fees invariably bestow in return for such fees old-age benefits, unemployment benefits, sick and accident benefits, and the like. Surely, the very few instances in which a union may have charged an excessive fee does not warrant wholesale regulation by government. Furthermore, the very existence of labor organizations depends upon their ability adequately to finance themselves through fees prescribed by vote of the membership.

Once the door is opened to government regulation of such important matters, labor organizations can exist and effectively function only to the extent permitted by government. This is the inevitable result which, as experience has shown many examples of exorbitant prices charged by employers and tremendous profits realized. But it has been suggested that a government tribunal be set up on a permanent basis for the purpose of prescribing and regulating prices and profits.

5. "Ban on Compulsory Checkoff"

The requirement that individuals must authorize the checkoff of union dues does not add a great deal to a practice which employers generally carried on before the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act. The great bulk of checkoff agreements have traditionally provided that employes must submit individual authorizations.

6. "Opportunity to Present Own Grievances"

The "Post" article deems it a great privilege for employees, under existing bargaining contracts, be permitted to present their own grievances without the intervention of the duly authorized representatives of the union.

Here again, we see another example of the law's ulterior purpose of restoring individual rather than collective bargaining. The collective bargaining unit selected by a majority of the employees and has thereby become entitled to bargaining rights, which may be exercised by it or by any individual employee during the negotiation or settlement of all grievances involving employees in the bargaining unit?

It is of vital importance that grievances be adjusted on a consistent basis and pursuant to established policies. Furthermore, only the union representative can serve only to cause disruption within the union and to afford opportunity for the employer to weaken or destroy the bargaining unit's representative by giving preference to the adjustment of grievances submitted by individuals.

7. "An End to Jurisdictional Strikes and Secondary Boycotts"

The "Post" article asserts that the wholesale ban upon jurisdictional strikes and secondary boycotts contained in the Taft-Hartley Act is a boon to workers and to the public. Certain examples are cited, as, for instance, attempts by an unrecognized union to displace a certified union, and refusal by members of one national organization to work upon goods made by members of another national organization.

The article does not mention the many types of boycott and so-called jurisdictional strike which are outlawed by the Act and which have every historical and economic justification. The article does not mention the fact that there are good jurisdictional strikes and boycotts and bad jurisdictional strikes and boycotts, but that the act sweeps all within its prohibition. The article does not mention that the broad and indiscriminate prohibitions of the law operate to negate and destroy the principle of mutual aid and assistance so basic to the trade union movement and, indeed, upon which that movement is founded.

The act prevents organized employes in one industry from utilizing the help of other organized employes in the same industry, even though the failure of the economic principle that wages and working conditions within an entire industry must be stabilized if collective bargaining is to succeed. The act requires organized employees to contribute to the destruction of their own working standards by obliging them to work on goods produced under nonunion conditions.

In doing so, Congress was merely reminded of the admonition of Justices Brandeis and Holmes in their dissenting opinion in the Duplex Printing Company case that "Courts, with better grace of intellectual honesty, should recognize the unity of interest throughout the union, and that in refusing to work on materials which threatened it, the union was only refusing to aid in destroying itself" in a statement now accepted by the full Court—see Thornhill v. Alabama, 310 U. S. 88; American Steel Foundries v. Tri-City Central Trades Council, 257 U. S. 184; and Bakery & Pastry Drivers v. Wohl, 315 U. S. 769).

AFL Labor Press Lauded for Part Played In Publicizing Community Chest Drives

New York City.—Individual AFL members, the AFL labor press, AFL affiliated unions gave generously of their time, efforts, and money to the Community Chest campaigns to the all-time peacetime record of $115,000,000, Community Chests and Councils, Inc., of New York City, announced.

The AFL labor press was singled out for special thanks and praise in a special AFL edition of the newsletter published by the national organization. The newsletter said:

"We extend our wholehearted appreciation that you gave us in the recent Community Chest campaigns. Never have such splendid publicity been given by the labor press to the Community Chest campaigns. We wish to thank the editors of the monthly journals of the paigns, we say 'Thanks by millions.'"

National and International Unions also received special thanks from the Chests for devoting covers to Red Feather themes as well as editorials, many of the editors of official weekly AFL papers also devoted pioneer space to publication for their stories on the progress of the campaigns, editorials, and special articles.

"We had hoped to reproduce some of the display in this issue of the newsletter but the volume was too great and any display was of such superior quality that to select a few would be unfair to the many.

"Your cooperation made the successful Community Chest campaigns possible. On behalf of the many who will benefit by the health and welfare services made possible by these cam-

NEW MORTGAGE INSURANCE FUNDS VOTED BY CONGRESS

Washington, D. C.—The Senate and House passed a bill authorizing the Federal Housing Agency to insure another $750,000,000 in housing mortgages.

The House and Senate both approved a conference committee report accepting a House amendment under which only $250,000,000 will be made available immediately. The rest will be used at the discretion of the President.

The housing agency recently exhausted its insurance authorization, and officials said the construction of thousands of veterans homes was being imperilled. Under the act, the government insures housing mortgages up to 90 percent of their value.

3,500 AFL RETAIL CLERKS RECEIVE PAY INCREASES

Newark, N. J.—The AFL's Retail Clerks International Association was instrumental in negotiating a new agreement with the Bamberger's, a large department store, under which 3,500 employees will receive pay increases.

The contracts provide for a $4-a-week wage increase for all full-time workers employed before Nov. 10. Those hired after that date will receive a $2 rise after Jan. 4. Part-time employes will receive pro rata increases. All employes will receive raises, whether or not they are union members.

Unions involved are Local 21, Retail Clerks International Association, and the Department Store Council.

Green Says Taft-Hartley Law to Blame For Strike Against Chicago Newspapers

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green charged that full responsibility for the strike of the International Typographical Union against the Chicago newspaper publishers rests with Congress which enacted the Taft-Hartley law.

In a statement supporting the ITU, Mr. Green declared the anti-labor law is the cause of the strife in Chicago which until now has enjoyed 50 years of peaceful and satisfactory relations between the union and the Chicago newspaper publishers. He said:

"The Taft-Hartley law is responsible for upsetting the cooperative labor-management relationships which existed among newspaper management in Chicago and the International Typographical Union. The sound reasons for vetoing the Taft-Hartley bill, as set forth in the President's veto message, have been thoroughly substantiated.

"A peaceful and most satisfactory labor-management relationship which existed for more than thirty years between the publishers of newspapers and printers in Chicago was terminated. Strike and strife have been substituted for management-labor cooperation.

"The cause of this strike is the Taft-Hartley law and the responsibility for it rests squarely upon the Congress of the United States.

"The charge which has been repeatedly made that action taken by the International Typographical Union in the Chicago strike is illegal, is not warranted and unjustifiable. The facts are that the International Typographical Union is morally right in the fight it is making to preserve and protect the rights of its membership. We are firmly convinced that it is legally right also.

"There is a line of difference between freedom and compulsion. Free men and free labor are clothed with the right to give their labor or withhold it at will. Compulsory service is involuntary servitude. If any worker is compelled to render personal service his will or under conditions to which he objects, he is involuntarily subjected to involuntary servitude. This is contrary to the 13th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States which provides that involuntary servitude shall not prevail anywhere except as a punishment for crime.

"Because the members of the International Typographical Union employed in the newspaper publishing establishments in Chicago are fighting for the preservation of the principles of freedom, they deserve the support of against the imposition of involuntary servitude, the American Federation of Labor extends to them and the International Typographical Union a full measure of support."

Green Endorses Spirit and Purpose Of American Brotherhood Week Plan

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green endorsed the spirit and celebration of American Brotherhood Week, sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, to be observed the week of Feb. 22 for the week of February 22-29, 1948.

In a letter to Robert P. Patterson, former Under Secretary of War and national chairman for the Brotherhood Week celebration, Mr. Green said:

"The trend of world events must be accepted as additional significance to the celebration of American Brotherhood Week during the month of February 1948. This observance is based upon the fact that the issue of world peace established upon a sound and secure basis is still hanging in the balance. The United Nations has not yet reached a final conclusion or concluded an agreement based upon the principles of universal peace and security. It is clearly evident that the day of moment is here when every agency having for its primary objective the establishment of peace and security should be called upon to exercise all its moral and persuasive influence in order to create a public opinion among the allied nations of our crying need for the establishment of peace and security without further delay.

"Brotherhood is a concrete and fitting to call upon all classes of people to dedicate themselves to the ends and purpose in the observance of Brotherhood Week during the week of February 22, 1948."

Diplomas and Prizes Awarded Under IBEW Apprentice Plan

New York City.—Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers announced the graduation of a group of young men from the apprenticeship training program which it sponsors jointly with the Electrical Industry of New York City.

Diplomas and prizes were awarded to persons who qualified as Class A journeymen electrical workers after 4 years' apprentice.

Among the speakers at the ceremonies were Edward Corsi, New York State Industrial Commissioner, and Jeremiah P. Sullivan, president of Local 3. Frank J. Rush, chairman of the Electrical Industry.

The course of training for electrical apprentices, covering a five year period of apprenticeship of 8,000 hours a year, is given under the direction of the Board of Education. The forenoon training program is given two nights weekly, while on-the-job training is given during the day for a minimum of 2,000 hours a year. The entire program consists of 11,000 hours of training and 1,000 hours of study.

Contractors, who employ these apprentices are required to set up a progress report. At the end of the 5-year period, they issue a recommendation to qualify as fifth year apprentices. At the end of the fifth year they take an examination to qualify as journeymen. Failing in examination, entitles an apprentice to a journeyman's card and a certificate from the State of New York.

Harry Pomerantz, secretary of the Joint Industry Board's Vocational and Apprenticeship Committee and an electrical contractor, awarded the prizes. Prizes were U. S. Savings Bonds for graduate journeymen, and a nine subscriptions of a technical periodical for each of the fifth year apprentices who obtained exceptional marks in their training.

Under the present training program, veterans are given preference

BLS REPORTS 3.2 MILLION VETERANS IN FACTORY JOBS

Washington, D. C.—Nearly 3.2 million veterans of World War II were employed in manufacturing industries at the end of June, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The total reported showed a gain of 400,000 over the figure for the first quarter of 1947, bringing the proportion of veterans employed to 20.8 percent which is a slight increase over the end of 1946, the BLS said.

The hiring of veterans maintained the stability apparent since the final quarter of 1946 veterans now account for about one-fourth of all workers hired by manufacturing establishments. Although veterans continued to outdo other job groups in proportions than other workers, the differences have narrowed considerably since last year.

COURT UPHOLDS UNION'S SUSPENSION OF DE MILLE

San Francisco.—The action of the AFL's American Federation of Radio Artists in suspending Cecil B. de Mille, the movie King, was upheld unanimously by the California Supreme Court which supported the decisions made by two lower courts in the prolonged legal battle.

The union suspended de Mille for his refusal to pay a $1 assessment to campaign against the 1944 right of employment act.

AFL'S GOVERNMENT UNIT URGES $800 SALARY BOOST

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's Government Employes Council voted to support a program calling for an $800 permanent salary increase for 1,750,000 workers commencing January 1, 1948.

AFL MILK DRIVERS TO AID '48 MARCH OF DIMES

Minneapolis.—Members of Local 471 of the Milk Drivers and Dairy Employes, affiliated AFL, with the AFL have pledged 100 percent cooperation in the 1948 March of Dimes campaign.

The drivers, meanwhile, will distribute coin collection cards to every home, apartment and every business establishments served by the 2,664 Minneapolis Local. The cards will be distributed between January 18-30, the period for the drive for funds made annually by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

The novel plan was worked out by Gene Larson, the local's secretary-treasurer, and Minneapolis agents Ernest Donahoe, George Bergquist and Jerry Cramer, in cooperation with the Hennepin County Chapter of the National Foundation.

Senators Demand Forthright Action To Control Inflation

Average Worker Cannot Meet BLS Family Budget

Washington, D. C.—The average worker's 4-member family cannot meet the requirement of the minimum family budget prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and presented to a congressional committee.

This was the significance of the findings of the BLS which reported that to achieve a "modest" but adequate standard of living, the breadwinner must bring home from $2,200 to $3,600 each year, depending upon his city of residence.

The statement is clear that most American families earn less than the minimum required to produce this living standard in the least expensive city of the United States.

Average weekly earnings for factory workers in October were $50.97, according to BLS figures. Assuming employment for a full 52-week year, which is most unusual for production workers, the yearly income would amount to about $2,650, or $550 short of the lowest minimum budget.

Results of the BLS study showed that Washington, D. C., was the richest prize of the 34 cities surveyed for the purpose of compiling the budget. New Orleans proved to be the least expensive.

The budget offered by the BLS is one designed to provide a minimum living standard. The Washington, D. C., budget, for instance, "would not provide all the things that most people would consider the level as being considerably more "modest" than it was "adequate."

The study priced what most families chose to buy to achieve certain living standards, not what they "ought" to buy.

As the "budget family," the BLS assumed a husband who was the sole breadwinner, a wife who spent full time at household duties without outside employment, a boy of 13 in high school, and a girl of 8 in grade school.

It then priced the food the family bought if it satisfied the National Research Council's recommended nutritional standard of about 3,000 calories a day and assumed a generous but not extravagant family outlay of five rooms, heated to 70 degrees, with private bath, kitchen and hot and cold running water.

For the rest—clothing, medical care, transportation, recreation, taxes, tobacco, home furnishings, reading and the like—it took what the average city family spent in 1944, which the BLS called a "point of resistance." This is a point below which families ought not be fall.

The budget provided about 2 pounds of all kinds of meat per person per week, or about two-thirds of the average per capita consumption. It allowed for 30 pounds of fresh fruit and potatoes, and a pound and a turkey or good piece of meat could be had only on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. It gave 12 quarts of milk, 6 loaves of bread and 20 eggs a week.

It allowed less than one pack of cigarettes every two days; a little better than three phone calls and one letter a week; one movie every two weeks for the boy, one every three weeks for the others; one haircut for the father every three weeks; two house dresses for the wife a year, one coat every four years; about four doctor's calls a year per family.

Home Completions Rise 4% In November Number of Dwellings Started Drops 13%

Washington, D. C.—The number of new dwellings started in November dropped off by 13 percent from the level reached in October, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on the basis of preliminary data.

Completed homes increased in number by 40,000 or 4%, 3,400 more than during the preceding month and 23,000 more than in November of 1946. In the first 11 months of 1947, more than 745,000 dwellings have been completed, 70 percent more than in the same period 1946.

The drop recorded for new housing starts marked the beginning of a seasonal slowdown in the home construction industry. The total for November was, however, far better than a year ago and marked the 11th consecutive month during which housing starts exceeded 80,000 units. The total for the month of 82,000 homes was 72 percent greater than the figure for November 1946.

According to preliminary reports on local building permits issued in November for new home construction, all sections of the country shared in the decline in housing starts. There was a substantial drop in Springfield, Mass.; Dearborn, Mich.; Cleveland, Dayton, and Youngstown, Ohio; Milwaukee, Wis.; Des Moines, Iowa; Washington, D. C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Memphis, Tenn.; Mobile, Ala.; Birmingham; and Salt Lake City, Utah. The only large cities which showed gains were New Haven, Conn.; Camden, N. J.; Detroit, Mich.; Kingsport and Evanston, Ill.; Lincoln, Nebr.; Charlotte, N. C., and Knoxville, Tenn.

Construction of new nonfarm dwelling units for which funds are raised by built for rental purposes has been gaining steadily in proportion to new 1-family homes. New dwelling units started in 2-family and multifamily structures accounted for about 18 per cent of all nonfarm housing started in October, compared with 11 percent in January.

Taft-Hartley Law Hinders Bargaining; NLRB Seen Swamped by Union Elections

Aurora, Ill.—The Taft-Hartley law seems to aid labor organizations apart and prevents teamwork and cooperation, Paul Hutchinson, editor of Christian Century, declared.

This was the view expressed by Joseph M. Jacobs, attorney for various AFL unions, who addressed the 12th district meeting of the Railway Labor Executives' Business Relations Conference.

"Under the law as enacted several months ago," said Jacobs, "union members were locked in a different room from employers' representatives and the difficulties of getting together are almost insuperable. For example, under the Taft-Hartley law, there are no less than 20 separate procedural items imposed before the board can even order a union and employer to grant a union shop. Moreover, many of these procedures which are virtual obstacles to cooperative negotiations must be kept in mind that at the present time there are no less than 12 million American employes working elsewhere apart and prevents teamwork and cooperation, and that 2,664 National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

"The novel plan was worked out by Gene Larson, the local's secretary-treasurer, and Minneapolis agents Ernest Donahoe, George Bergquist and Jerry Cramer, in cooperation with the Hennepin County Chapter of the National Foundation.

BLS REPORTS OLD STORY; WHOLESALE PRICES UP

Washington, D. C.—It's the same old story, the monthly report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a further rise for the week ended December 13 which brought the price index to a point 15.5 percent above a year ago and nearly 4 percent higher than the level of 4 weeks ago.

Farm products again led the advance with an increase of 1.2 percent during the week.

BUILDING SERVICE GROUP AIDS JEWISH LABOR UNIT

New York City.—Representatives of 60,000 American Federation of Labor building service employes in this city pledged full financial and moral support to the work of the Jewish Labor Committee in promoting racial and religious tolerance. The pledge was given at a meeting of the New York Building Service Council. The committee is carrying on a national drive for $1,750,000.

O'Mahoney, Morse Hit NAM Plan As Move For Bigger Profits

Washington, D. C.—Two representatives of the people made impassioned pleas in the Senate for forthright action against inflation to put an end to the ruinous play perpetrated upon the citizens of the country by certain vested interests.

Senators Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming and Wayne C. Morse of Oregon vigorously defended the public interest and ridiculed the proposals of the National Association of Manufacturers to curb inflation.

Senator O'Mahoney, saying that we can't defeat inflation with a fine-tuner," gave a detailed account of how uncontrolled prices, profits, and black markets are continually strengthening their hold over the economic fortunes of the average American. He declared:

"Corporate profits in the first nine months of 1947, after paying taxes, are greater than corporate profits for the entire 12 months of 1939, which were the largest in history."

He presented a number of examples to prove this, giving the names of the companies and their profits.

Selecting one sample of kindness: The U. S. Steel Corporation netted $706,662,000 in the 1947 nine months, compared to $57,467,894 in the 1946 entire year. In 1939 the profits were nearly doubled.

"These figures raise steel prices, and they are still further boosted by the 'levy' now being asked," O'Mahoney described in detail. Other information, he said, also have their "grey" and "black" aspects.

Will such profiteering be remedied by the "voluntary" program of which being proposed in Congress? O'Mahoney asked the Senate.

"Are we going to try to fool the people of America? They will not be fooled by that sort of stuff. They know that prices are going up. They know they will continue to go up—unless the people's government does something about it!

"We shall be deceiving ourselves," O'Mahoney declared, "if we imagine we can turn over the economy of this nation to the small group of men who sit at the top of our economic system, and expect them to serve as a private government, which every man in America must obey.

"We talk about regimentation by government, but these rising prices and swelling profits tell us what private regimentation does.

"It is commerce under private regimentation that is causing the inflation that can destroy the dollar.

"Have we any intelligence?" Are we blind? We can defeat and can fight inflation with a feather duster, and public platitudes!

"The time has gone for pussyfooting," the Senator continued. The time is here to do something for the people of America.

"The issue is between control of our economy by the masters of concentrated economic power, and control by the people's representatives. Give the government the power to act, or inflation will overwhelm the country."

Senator Morse joined with O'Mahoney in condemning the NAM for its anti-inflation platform which has been spread over the newspapers of the country in full-page ads paid for with money of industrial interests which will be deducted from their income tax as a legitimate business expense.

The Senator from the NAM proposal as a "serious danger," which "will regiment our economy by big business methods."

"The platform of the National Association of Manufacturers is a platform of class advantage," Morse declared in point after point, apparently through so-called voluntary agreements, to make it possible for greedy interests in this country to make higher and higher profits. Why, they even have now to permit the lifting of restrictions on interest rates so they can charge what they think they can get. In this advertisement they show that the real purpose is to enable the stockholders any more, because they have taken the controls protecting the rights of stockholders removed."

Touching upon the object of increased wages as the cabinet reason for high prices, Morse declared:

"The public talk about need for increasing prices in order to take care of increased labor costs—because that is the song and dance of much of the public relations staff of the Association of Manufacturers—the fact is that in the major industries of the country, every time there has been a wage increase there has been an increase of labor cost, the price increase has been far more than was necessary to take care of the increase in labor costs.

"I think the time has come to put the lie on such propaganda as the National Association of Manufacturers is feeding the public of the country in the name of trying to check inflation as demonstrated by this advertisement.

"Their program will not check inflation. It will help us to march up a blom-and-bust cycle."